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S/PRS:MR. VEST

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O 211957Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR, SW

SUBJECT:UPGRADING OF RELATIONS: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE TO BE USED BY DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT THIS MORNING IN ANSWERING QUERIES. BACKGROUND IS FYI ONLY. YOU MAY DRAW ON Q AND A'S AS APPROPRIATE. WHILE APPROACH IS LOW-KEY IT SHOULD EMPHASIZE OUR ANTICIPATION OF GOOD FUTURE RELATIONS.

2. BACKGROUND: U.S.-SWEDISH BILATERAL RELATIONS BECAME STRAINED AS A RESULT OF CONTINUOUS PUBLIC CRITICISM BY SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF AMERICAN POLICY IN INDO-CHINA CULMINATING IN THE DECEMBER 23, 1972 STATEMENT BY SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER PALME COMPARING THE U.S. BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM IN DECEMBER WITH CERTAIN ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY NAZI GERMANY DURING WORLD WAR II. AS A RESULT OF THIS STATEMENT, THE THEN ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE, U. ALEXIS JOHNSON, CALLED IN THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO PROTEST

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THE UNACCEPTABLE NATURE OF MR. PALME'S REMARKS. IN THE

LIGHT OF MR. PALME'S STATEMENT, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DETERMINED THAT NO USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY HAVING A NEW SWEDISH AMBASSADOR COME TO THE UNITED STATES AT THAT TIME.

IT WAS FURTHER DECIDED THAT THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN STOCKHOLM, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION JOHN GUTHRIE, WHO WAS VACATIONING IN THE UNITED STATES, WOULD NOT RETURN TO

STOCKHOLM. (OUR LAST AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN, DR. JEROME HOLLAND, RESIGNED HIS POST ON AUGUST 30, 1972, TO RETURN TO PRIVATE LIFE.) IN THE ABSENCE OF MR. GUTHRIE, THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR, ARTHUR J. OLSEN, BECAME THE CHARGE IN STOCKHOLM. THE SWEDISH DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION, LEIF LEIFLAND, BECAME THE CHARGE OF SWEDEN FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE ON TRANSFER OF AMBASSADOR HUBERT DEBESCHE IN JANUARY OF 1973.

ON SEPTEMBER 7 OF LAST YEAR, SECRETARY OF STATE-DESIGNATE KISSINGER INFORMED THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT, FOLLOWING HIS CONFIRMATION, HE WOULD ORDER A REVIEW OF OUR RELATIONS WITH SWEDEN TO DETERMINE WHEN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD BE RETURNED TO NORMAL. THIS REVIEW WAS CARRIED OUT FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S CONFIRMATION, AND ON THE BASIS OF ITS FINDINGS, THE SECRETARY RECOMMENDED TO THE PRESIDENT THAT NORMAL RELATIONS WITH SWEDEN BE FULLY RESTORED, AND THE PRESIDENT APPROVED THE RECOMMENDATION.

WE THEREUPON INFORMED THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OF OUR WISH TO NORMALIZE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, INCLUDING OUR INTENTION TO APPOINT AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO STOCKHOLM. WE ALSO DECLARED OUR WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE A SWEDISH AMBASSADOR HERE.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q. WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES PROMPTED THE DECISION TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH SWEDEN AT THIS TIME?

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A. THE DECISION TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS, INCLUDING THE NAMING OF AN AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN, WAS MADE BY THE PRESIDENT, BASED ON THE SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDATION. A REVIEW OF U.S.-SWEDISH BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT AT THE SECRETARY'S DIRECTION FOLLOWING HIS CONFIRMATION, AND, BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF THAT REVIEW, THE SECRETARY DEEMED IT ADVISABLE TO RECOMMEND NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH SWEDEN.

Q. WERE ANY CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE AMERICAN DECISION TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS? FOR EXAMPLE, DID PRIME MINISTER PALME PROMISE TO FOREGO FURTHER PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES?

A. NO, THERE WERE NO CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE DECISION TO RESUME NORMAL RELATIONS. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SINCE THE END OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE INDOCHINA

CONFLICT, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE OR NO PUBLIC CRITICISM

OF U.S. POLICY BY SWEDISH OFFICIALS.

Q. WHY DID THE U.S. CONSIDER THAT IT WAS DESIRABLE TO RESTORE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH SWEDEN?

A. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, GENERALLY MAINTAINED RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS MEETING CERTAIN TRADITIONAL CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION WHO DESIRE TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH US, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT WE AGREE WITH THE POLICIES OF THESE GOVERNMENTS AND IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS. IN THE CASE OF SWEDEN, BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND SWEDEN SHARE A BASIC COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC VALUES, AND WE COOPERATE IN A WIDE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES, RANGING FROM TRADE TO SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HAD VERY BASIC DIFFERENCES WITH THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST WITH REGARD TO INDOCHINA AND OTHER MATTERS, WE NEVERTHELESS BELIEVE THE EMPHASIS SHOULD NOW BE ON OUR FUTURE RELATIONS RATHER THAN ON PAST DIFFERENCES. THEREFORE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE MOVED TO NORMALIZE OUR RELATIONS THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS.

KISSINGER

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